



NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF ULSTER COUNTY EXECUTIVE MIKE HEIN



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ULSTER COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER INVITED TO SERVE ON THE PRESTIGIOUS NEW YORK STATE JUSTICE TASK FORCE

Kingston, NY (November 13, 2009) - Ulster County Executive Mike Hein is pleased to announce that Ulster County Public Defender, Andrew Kossover has been invited to become an Advisory Group member of the New York State Justice Task Force.

On May 1, 2009, Jonathan Lippman, Chief Judge of the State of New York, announced the creation of the Task Force to reduce, and ideally, eliminate the convictions of actually innocent persons in New York. One of the first permanent task forces addressing wrongful convictions in the United States, the Justice Task Force was established to provide a forum to review new exoneration cases and examine the patterns and practices that may contribute to wrongful convictions.

In addition, the Justice Task Force will create and implement recommendations to reduce the occurrence of wrongful convictions in New York.

A letter sent by the Honorable Theodore T. Jones, Associate Judge of the New York State Court of Appeals, referred to Mr. Kossover's experience, insight and expertise as valuable attributes that would assist the Task Force in achieving its important goals.

"I'm proud of the outstanding professionals that we have working in many areas of our County government. Andy Kossover does an excellent job on behalf of the people of Ulster County and it's nice to see that acknowledged by officials at the very highest levels of the New York State judicial system," said County Executive Hein.

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